

apparatus illustrated in FIG. 2 is located in a vacuum tight chamber K the plate 19 must here not necessarily contact the frame 12 in a sealed manner. This situation is obviously different when the chamber K itself is not vacuum tight. The article 21 is conveyed by the transport arm by rotting of the shaft 3 by means of the motor 1 towards the second station 27 illustrated. The driving arrangement at the transport arm 5, the specific construction thereof not forming part of the present invention, and for which various possibilities regarding its design will come to mind to the person skilled in the corresponding art, is sealed by a bellows 23 in a vacuum tight manner against the interior of the chamber K. By rotating of the transport arm 5, the article, namely e.g. the disk 21, is transported into the are of an opening 25 of the second illustrated station 27. The opening 25 determines the surface normal A_{25} of the opening area. From the approach position Q illustrated by broken lines, the conveyor plate 19 with the disk 21 is again raised into the position illustrated by full lines by means of the mentioned, for instance pneumatic driving arrangement or mechanism at the arm 5, such that the plate comes to contact, now e.g. in a sealed manner, the edge of the opening 25 of the station 27 which for instance can be designed as a known etching or coating station.

D1 Amended

Please amend the paragraph beginning at column 6, line 48 in the manner shown on the attached sheet.

In order to treat disk shaped articles such as CD's or magneto-optical disks having a central hole, such as the disk 21 illustrated in FIG. 2, FIG. 5 illustrates a preferred support on the plate 19. Thus, the plate 19 includes at its center a pin 22 which has three axially extending grooves [23] 22' staggered azimuthally by 120°. Springs 25 are mounted in these grooves. They project towards the upright end of the pin with portions 26 slightly domed outwards beyond the outer surface of the pin, such that the disk 21 can be easily slid e.g. by means of a charging roboter over these portions and a slight snapping occurs at the portions 26. This depends from how much the portions 26 will project over the deposited disk 21. This slight snapping-on by the disk 21, only slightly over the culmination point P of the portions 26, allows also a more easy drawing-off of the disk 21 after its processing or treatment, resp. without that a drive mechanism being necessary for the retaining springs 25.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A vacuum process apparatus for processing at least one workpiece comprising a chamber with[:]
 at least two openings defining respective opening areas [for one of treating and handling said at least one workpiece thereof]; and